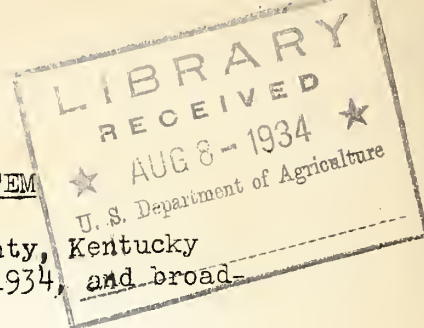


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HOW BETTER PRACTICES IMPROVED MY FARMING SYSTEM



A radio talk by R. R. Giltner, Farmer of Henry County, Kentucky delivered in the Land-Grant College radio hour, July 18, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations.

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As I have been actively engaged in farming in Kentucky for the past thirty years I have become intimately acquainted with the Agricultural Extension work in our State. This service has been of inestimable value to me in my own farming operations and I can see the excellent effect that it has had upon the development of better farming in Kentucky.

As a concrete example of the efficiency of Agricultural Extension work in Kentucky, I would point to the development of interest in Korean lespedeza. This legume, which has been a Godsend to the State, was introduced into our county by the agent and the crop specialist of the College of Agriculture about ten or twelve years ago. At the present time our county is one of the largest producers of lespedeza seed in Kentucky and we are shipping seed to 23 states and two foreign countries. In the two counties in which our farms are located, approximately ten thousand acres of Korean lespedeza were harvested for seed last year. Thus, an industry has been developed, which brings into our county annually over \$100,000.

The distribution of lespedeza in Kentucky has been greatly accelerated by the activity of our State Extension Service in placing demonstrations throughout all parts of the State, showing that the plant can be grown successfully on almost all types of soils and under practically all conditions. The farmers of Kentucky have been saved millions of dollars through the prevention of soil erosion and in the building up of soil fertility by the use of this excellent legume. Prior to the introduction of Korean lespedeza, one of the greatest needs in our state was for more and better pastures, but since the Extension Service introduced this crop, this situation is rapidly being improved. At the present time on our own farms in Shelby and Henry Counties, we have more than one thousand acres in Korean lespedeza and we expect to sow it on every acre of our land when it is not actively engaged in the production of some other crop.

Another Agricultural Extension project that has been of tremendous benefit to the farmers in our section is the development of interest in the use of ground limestone and marl. Our farm was selected by the County Agent for the first demonstration of the use of marl in our section. As a result of this work, hundreds of farms in both Henry and Shelby Counties have been limed or marled and thus brought into a higher state of productivity. Inevitably, an increased production of alfalfa, sweet clover, red clover, and lespedeza follows the use of lime. If you could drive through our county today and compare the conditions that you see with those of 20 years ago, you would realize that the Agricultural Extension work has wrought wonders in this connection.

No statement of the value of Extension work would be complete without some mention of what has been done with our boys and girls in the 4-H Club. Henry County is the champion dairy county in Kentucky in 4-H Club work under

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the direction of the Extension Service. In these times of depression when every other commodity has declined in value, there is no depreciation in our greatest product, our boys and girls. They remain the greatest asset of any community and any agency that contributes to their value and efficiency is very much worth while.

While the efforts of the Agricultural Extension Service along the lines of economic production have been valuable, I am especially impressed with the work that it has done during the present emergency situation. Without the assistance of our County Agents and our whole Extension Service, the farmers of our county would have been unable to handle the Agricultural Adjustment Program.

It seems to me that in times like these we need the advice and cooperation of the Agricultural Extension Service more than ever before. Our present situation demands that we produce at the lowest possible cost and that we confine our production to the effective demand. On our farms we take advantage of every opportunity to reduce our cost of production. Therefore, we will continue to make a very extensive use of the services of our county Agents, and our friends at the College of Agriculture, while regulating the total volume of our production in accordance with the plans of the National Administration.

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